

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

July 16, 2007

Dear _____ :

Consistent with section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–114) (the “Act”), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond August 1, 2007, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and W. Thad Cochran, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Thomas P. Lantos, chairman, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; and David R. Obey, chairman, and Charles J. “Jerry” Lewis, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 17.

Remarks on Presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to Norman E. Borlaug

July 17, 2007

Thank you all. Madam Speaker, thank you. Madam Speaker, Mr. Leader, members of the congressional leadership, members of the Iowa delegation, fighting Texas A&M Aggies, Dr. Borlaug, and his family.

All around us are testaments to our Republic’s young and storied history. Yet sometimes it takes a ceremony like this to remind us what a special place America is.

Ours is a land of hope and promise and compassion. And we see that compassion and promise in the man we honor today, a farmboy, educated in a one-room schoolhouse, who left the golden fields of Iowa to become known as “the man who fed the world.”

Many have highlighted Norman Borlaug’s achievements in turning ordinary staples such as wheat and rice into miracles that brought hope to millions. I particularly appreciated the story about a former Vice

President and fellow Iowan named Henry Wallace, who once came to observe Norman’s grain experiments up close. The Vice President looked around and then asked why a good Iowa boy like Norman wasn’t working on something to do with corn. [Laughter]

Norm Borlaug’s life has taken him from laboratories in America and Mexico to dusty villages throughout the developing world. He has consulted with Presidents and Prime Ministers in important countries like Pakistan and India. He’s helped inspire students at Texas A&M, where an institute bearing his name is dedicated to completing his life’s work. To this day Norman leads an active life—listen to a friend. He said, “Norman spends half his year in Texas, half his year in Mexico, and the other half wherever else he’s needed.” [Laughter] That is interesting math. I was going to say that I bet some of us wish